

# LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred April 13, 2001 in San Antonio, TX. According to police, a 39-year-old man was attacked because the suspect thought he was a homosexual. The victim had stopped in a park to look at some rocks when a man with a knife came up behind him. The man held the victim in a bear hug before stabbing him in the chest with a knife that he described as a three-inch Buck knife. The suspect allegedly called him anti-gay names as he stabbed him.

I believe the government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH 2001

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to celebrate our Nation's 33rd Hispanic Heritage Month, which commemorates Hispanic Americans and their contributions to the strength of our Nation in the past, present, and future.

Congress started the tradition of Hispanic Heritage Month in 1968 with the National Hispanic Heritage Week, and expanded the annual celebration to a month-long event in 1989. This year, the month follows the terrorist attacks on our country on September 11. More than ever, it is essential to take this opportunity to recognize the many hardworking Hispanic Americans who have helped make our country great and will continue to do so throughout our future. Our country stands united, with Americans of Central and South American descent standing alongside Americans with roots from all over the world.

There are many shining examples of Hispanic Americans who have stood up for our country and communities in times of war and peace. Ancestors of present-day Hispanics sacrificed or risked their lives throughout the many years of North American history that led to our country's beginning. Hispanic Americans have served the United States in every war since World War I. Many Hispanic American service members have earned distinction in our military, such as Emilio A. De La Garza, who entered the U.S. Marine Corps in Illinois and was awarded the Medal of Honor, America's highest decoration for valor.

In Silvis, IL, there is a monument to eight heroes of Mexican-American de-

scend who gave their lives in defense of this nation. The street the monument is on was once called Second Street USA, but it is now called Hero Street USA. The street's name honors 84 men from the 22 families on one small block of this street participated in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Many of them grew up on this street, some working for the railroad as their fathers did in Mexico. Today the street serves as a remembrance of those who courageously served our country.

Other Hispanic Americans stand up for their communities on a daily basis. Whether serving in our town councils, fire departments, or police departments, they are always working to advance our safety and quality of life. These local heroes include Raymond Orozco, who led the Chicago Fire Department with distinction until his recent retirement, and Jaime Gonzalez, the first Hispanic police officer in Elgin, IL.

Hispanic Americans also have enhanced our national prosperity and will continue to play an important role in our economy. A study by the National Academy of Sciences found that the Latino community contributes about \$10 billion to the U.S. economy per year. According to the Census, Hispanics owned about 1.2 million nonfarm businesses in 1997, employing over 1.3 million people and generating \$186.3 billion in business. The Small Business Administration tells us that minority and women-owned businesses are the most rapidly growing segments of the business community, and the number of Hispanic-owned businesses has increased by over 600 percent over the past 20 years. Female Latino-owned businesses are growing faster than any other segment of business owners. According to the Center for Women's Business Research, two-thirds of Latina entrepreneurs came into business ownership not by purchasing, inheriting or acquiring a business, but by starting their own. These are women like Chicagoan Sonia Archer, who, while raising a child, founded a home-based business marketing discounted legal services for people who cannot afford attorneys' fees. Stories like Sonia's illustrate how Hispanic Americans bring great innovation and success to our economy.

A wide array of talented Hispanic Americans enrich arts and athletics in our country. In the literary world, Sandra Cisneros brings us powerful, eloquent stories of young women growing up in communities in Chicago, or on the Mexican border, that are full of challenges and beauty. Tito Puente, known as "El Rey" or The King of Mambo, delighted audiences around the world with his musical gifts, using the timbal, vibraphone, trap drums, conga drums, claves, piano, saxophone, and clarinet. Hispanic Americans have also brought tremendous talent to America's pastime: baseball. Among the earlier figures was Roberto Clemente, who played right-field for

the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1955 to 1972, and won four National League batting titles, twelve Golden Glove awards, and the title of National League's Most Valuable Player in 1966. Then there is Nomar Garciaparra, who in 1997 set several rookie records during what Baseball Weekly called the greatest rookie season in history. Today we have Sammy Sosa, who is outfielder for the Chicago Cubs and the only player in the history of baseball to hit 60 home runs in each of three different seasons.

As we take time to reflect upon the strength Hispanic Americans bring to our country, we must also remember that many Latinos face challenges in our society. Fair and equal treatment of all Americans is a cornerstone of our society and our political system. Unfortunately, despite great progress, the struggle for civil rights and equal treatment under the law continues today for many citizens, including our fellow Hispanic Americans.

A time of national crisis reminds us that we must unite against hate and bigotry. I support several key bills that would bring us closer to this goal. First, I hope to see passage of the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001, also known as the hate crimes bill. Among other things, this legislation would expand current Federal protections against hate crimes based on race, religion, and national origin; authorize grants for programs designed to combat and prevent hate crimes; and enable the Federal Government to assist State and local law enforcement in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes. I have also introduced the Reasonable Search Standards Act, which would prohibit United States Customs Service personnel working at our borders and in our airports from searching or detaining individuals solely based on their race, religion, gender, national origin, or sexual orientation. Finally, I am cosponsoring the End Racial Profiling Act, which would make profiling by any law enforcement agent or agency a crime prosecutable in any State court of general jurisdiction or in a District Court of the United States; and would require Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies receiving Federal grants to maintain adequate policies and procedures designed to eliminate racial profiling. I believe these measures take important steps toward preventing discrimination and violence based on race and ethnicity.

There are currently 31.5 million Hispanic Americans living in the United States, and Hispanic Americans comprise 35 percent of the population under the age of 18. Sadly, only 57 percent of Latino students complete high school and only 10.6 percent earn a bachelor's degree. We can do better. This year Congress has worked with the administration to facilitate real education reform based on high standards and meaningful accountability measures.